

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 00302 280341Z

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ACTION EA-01

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FOR: IPS; IBS; IOR; IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: "ANGOLA"

1. WELLINGTON'S MAJOR DAILY, THE EVENING POST (101,000),
CARRIED ON JANUARY 27 AN EDITORIAL ON ANGOLA UNDER THE HEADING
"ANGOLA: IS CUBA A CATSPAW?"

2. BEGIN TEXT:

3. "ANGOLA IS NOT THE FIRST AFRICAN COUNTRY TO DISCOVER THAT THE
END OF COLONIALISM DOES NOT NECESSARILY SPELL IMMEDIATE SELF-
DETERMINATION AND PURPOSEFUL, PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT. AS HAS BEEN
THE FATE OF OTHERS, THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN PLUNGED INTO FRATRICIDAL
STRIFE.

4. "IN ANGOLA'S CASE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION, WHICH IS
THREATENING FOR AFRICA AS A WHOLE, HAS BEEN INTENSIFIED BY THE
INTERVENTION OF OUTSIDE NATIONS. TALK OF THE DANGERS OF ANOTHER
VIETNAM-TYPE SITUATION ARE ALL TOO ACCURATE FOR COMFORT.

5. "DIRECT AND SUBSTANTIAL CUBAN ARMED INVOLVEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE
MARXIST AND SOVIET-BACKED MPLA HAS DESTROYED ANY CHANCE THAT THE
ANGOLANS WILL BE ABLE TO SORT OUT THEIR OWN DESTINY...

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6. "AFTER THE VIETNAM EXPERIENCE THE US CONGRESS HAS BEEN UNDERSTAND-

ABLY COOL CONCERNING HEAVY INVOLVEMENT IN MILITARY VENTURES
AROUND THE WORLD. YET THE SENSIBLE CALL 'ALL FOREIGN TROOPS OUT*'
THAT HAS BEEN ECHOED IN VARIOUS QUARTERS HAS A HOLLOW RING,
FOR IT IS TOO FEEBLE AND
TOO LATE, AND WAS NOT ACCORDED THE FULL BACKING OF THE OAU.

7. "IT IS STRANGE, HOWEVER, THAT CUBAN FORCES SHOULD BE FIGHTING
IN SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS IN A PART OF THE GLOBE IN WHICH CUBA
ITSELF CAN SCARCELY HOPE TO ESTABLISH ANY STAKE. CUBA, IT APPEARS,
IS BEING USED AS A CATSPAW TO FURTHER SOVIET INTERESTS AND AT
THE SAME TIME LESSEN THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE OF HEAVY-HANDED
BIG-POWER INVOLVEMENT."
KOCH

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